

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**



October 30, 1998

TO: COUNTY PERFORMANCE SAMPLE COUNTIES

SUBJECT: SUSPENDING TANF PAYMENT ACCURACY ACTIVITIES

As a result of the passage of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) the California Department of Social Services through the modified Quality Control Information System began sampling the TANF population to meet case-specific data collection. The federal law imposes substantial penalties for failure to submit reports, and County Performance Sample (CPS) staff, who previously conducted Quality Control (QC) reviews were instructed to dedicate resources to collecting accurate data and reporting it timely. In California, the data collected by CPS staff is used for a variety of purposes beyond the federal reporting, including CalWORKs policy development, program evaluation, and characteristic surveys.

The welfare reform shift the focus from QC payment accuracy determination to acquiring data such as the TANF population's obtaining employment and achieving self-sufficiency. In keeping with this new direction, CDSS does not require CPS staff to verify payment accuracy following the AFDC QC process, and therefore expend time and resources on verification activities such as home visits and/or third party contacts. To the extent that these activities do not negatively impact collecting accurate data and reporting the data timely, counties may opt to modify payment accuracy activities should they continue to measure payment accuracy.

With the emphasis from both state and federal agencies on acquiring accurate data and timely reporting, counties should devote time and resources dedicated to this process on TANF case reviews.

Sincerely,

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